

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 04318 051541Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

SCEM-02 INT-08 DRC-01 /178 W
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P R 051516Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1097

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 4318

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SW

SUBJECT: ARAB MINISTERS WARN SWEDEN ON OIL

REFS: STOCKHOLM 4169 AND 4211 (NOTAL)

1. SWEDISH BUSINESS MAGAZINE VECKANS AFFARER OF DECEMBER 6
CARRIED RECENT INTERVIEW IN BRUSSELS WHICH ITS CORRESPONDENT
HAMMERICH HAD WITH SAUDI MINISTER YAMANI AND ALGERIAN MINISTER
ABDESSALAM IN PRESENCE OF ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO BELGIUM.

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PAGE 02 STOCKH 04318 051541Z

INTERVIEW OF INTEREST BECAUSE IT IS FIRST INSTANCE OF ARAB

STATEMENT ON SWEDEN. ARABS ALSO DRAW CONTRAST BETWEEN SWEDISH POLICIES TOWARD MIDDLE EAST AND VIETNAM.

2. FOLLOWING ARE INFORMAL TRANSLATIONS OF PERTINENT QUOTATIONS FROM ARTICLE. ABDESSALAM: "THE ARAB COUNTRIES WILL GRADUALLY REDUCE OIL SUPPLIES TO SWEDEN. AND WE ARE NOT GOING TO RECONSIDER OUR POLICY IF SWEDISH GOVERNMENT DOESN'T RECONSIDER ITS MIDDLE EAST POLICY. AS LONG AS YOU SWEDES ADOPT NEUTRAL ATTITUDE TO CONFLICT BETWEEN ARABS AND ISRAELIS, WE ARABS WILL ADOPT NEUTRAL ATTITUDE TO SWEDEN'S OIL WISHES. YOU ARE NOT OUR ENEMIES, BUT YOU ARE NOT OUR FRIENDS EITHER". ASKED WHETHER SWEDEN MUST TAKE SIDES, TO SECURE ENERGY SUPPLIES, ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR PROMPTED: "REMEMBER VIETNAM", WHEREUPON ABDESSALAM CONTINUES: "WHEN THE ISSUE IS QUESTION OF RIGHT OR WRONG YOU CAN'T SHIRK RESPONSIBILITIES BY REFUSING TO TAKE SIDES, BY ADOPTING NEUTRAL ATTITUDE. NEUTRALITY POLICY DOESN'T SENTENCE COUNTRY TO PASSIVITY. ON CONTRARY, WASN'T IT OLOF PALME WHO WENT OUT AND DEMONSTRATED HIS SUPPORT OF NORTH VIETNAMESE BECAUSE HE CONSIDERED THAT AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM SHOULD BE DENOUNCED? THIS WAS AN INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT. AND WAS SWEDEN NEUTRAL? NO* SO IF SWEDES REALLY THINK THAT ISRAEL SHOULD RESTORE ALL TERRITORY IT OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND THAT LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN ARABS SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED, WHAT IS STOPPING SWEDISH GOVERNMENT FROM SUPPORTING ARABS?"

3. YAMANI REPORTEDLY CONCURRED WITH ABDESSALAM AND SAID HE THOUGHT WHAT WAS NEEDED FOR SWEDEN TO QUALIFY AS FRIENDLY COUNTRY WAS "CONCRETE AND CONSTRUCTIVE MOVE" SUCH AS EFFECTIVE PRESSURE ON ISRAELIS OR OPEN SUPPORT OF ARABS, DECISIVE THING BEING GOS ATTITUDE TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND PALESTINIANS.

4. ARTICLE, WITHOUT IDENTIFYING SOURCE, CONTINUED THAT "ALL EUROPE IS BEING HIT BY DECISION OF ARAB COUNTRIES TO CUT THEIR OIL PRODUCTION BY 25 PERCENT, BUT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE: EXPORTS TO 'NEUTRALS' (APART FROM SWEDEN SUCH COUNTRIES AS DENMARK, BELGIUM, WEST GERMANY, AND ITALY) WILL BE REDUCED BY A FURTHER 5 PERCENT A MONTH, WHILE 'FRIENDS' (FRANCE, THE UK, AND SPAIN) ARE EXEMPTED FROM THIS DECISION. THE OIL BOYCOTT IS TOTAL AS REGARDS THE 'ENEMIES' OF THE NETHERLANDS AND THE U.S.". OLSEN

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